



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Vessel Permit Reminder

Shrimp fishermen and shrimp vessel owners are reminded that as of December 5, 2002, all commercial vessels that fish for shrimp in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico must have a Federal commercial vessel permit onboard. Federal waters are 9-200 nautical miles off the coast of Florida and Texas and 3-200 miles off Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Additionally, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) established a control date of December 6, 2003, for the fishery. Should the GMFMC use the control date to limit access in the fishery, anyone who did not have a Federal commercial vessel permit prior to that date would not meet initial eligibility qualifications to continue fishing. By establishing a control date one year after the implementation of Federal permit requirements, the GMFMC hopes to ensure that all active participants will have acquired their permits.

Therefore, all persons who intend to fish for shrimp in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, but who have not yet acquired a Federal shrimp vessel permit, are

encouraged to contact the Permits Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) to request a Federal shrimp vessel permit application.

Address:

Permits Office, NMFS Southeast Region
9721 Executive Center Drive N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
Phone **727-570-5326**

Copies of permit applications are also available from local Sea Grant offices and NOAA Fisheries port agents.

To obtain considerable recorded information about NOAA Fisheries missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available, leave a message, and we will return your call. This and other news releases are available on the Southeast Regional Office homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/>. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Department of Commerce.